

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee (SBAC)
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Place: [Zoom](#)

5:30 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	All
5:35 p.m.	Approve September 2020 meeting minutes	Troy Clark
5:40 p.m.	Planning projects update	Allan Schmidt
6:10 p.m.	Wildlife monitoring questions	Jonathan Soll/Katy Weil
6:40 p.m.	Conservation projects update	Jonathan Soll
7:00 p.m.	CNRP	Troy Clark, all
7:25 p.m.	Goals and next meeting agenda	All
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming SBAC meeting:

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 on Zoom

For agenda/schedule information, contact Annie Toledo at annie.toledo@oregonmetro.gov



Meeting summary

Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee

January 26, 2021

Committee members in attendance

Troy Clark Audubon Society of Portland
Carrie Butler Port of Portland
Emily Roth Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
Daryl Houtman City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Jonathan Soll Metro
Max Samuelson Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Pat Jewett 40-Mile Loop Trust
Eugenia Tam North Portland Neighbors

Others in attendance

Katy Weil Metro
Allan Schmidt Metro
Annie Toledo Metro
Susan Barthel Public, Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes

WELCOME

The September 2020 meeting summary was approved.

Bill Briggs, who filled the stakeholder position as a representative for private landowners within the CNRP boundary, has resigned from the committee.

PLANNING PROJECTS UPDATES

Allan Schmidt gave updates on the St Johns Prairie Trail and Columbia Blvd Bridge projects. He shared a PowerPoint that has detailed information and graphics. *Attachment 1*.

Columbia Blvd. Bridge

After reviewing multiple different trail alignments, the team ultimately chose alignment #2. This alternative limits impacts to the park, trees, etc. The project team engaged the public pre-pandemic and gathered feedback to inform their alignment choice. They hope to make parking improvements at Chimney Park which will include ADA enhancements. There will be a great opportunity to plant shrub habitat near the bridge once completed.

St Johns Prairie Trail

Currently, the main thrust of the project is the overlook, which Metro is able to build and fund. The overlook will be larger than what is called for in the CNRP and could potentially have an art component tied to the canopy as part of the RACC partnership. The overlook will be made out of robust, long-lasting materials, and will include ADA access and sitting areas. Allan showed some potential options for the overlook design prepared by KPFF. The team is most interested in the stone outcropping design and feel it will blend into the prairie quite well.

Susan asked how the engineers will install the posts in order to reduce the chance that they will tip due to landfill settling. Allan mentioned that this is one of the youngest parts of the prairie and settling is likely, but it won't settle too much. The engineers plan to use materials that can move around and sustain a bit of shifting. KPFF is doing a good job with the structural engineering.

The trail has been made a bit longer and loops have been added to enhance the user experience. The trail will be paved because it is easier to maintain and is less noisy. The asphalt also has the ability to shift around slightly in case the landfill's organic materials settle. Infrastructure such as fencing will be put in place to deter folks from going off-trail. A bike rack will be installed at the entrance to discourage cycling on the trail.

The boat ramp on the triangle property will have limited access to the public for now. There will be no way to access the ramp via car, but it remains accessible by bike. BES owns this property and has say over what improvements are made.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

Jonathan Soll and Katy Weil went over the wildlife monitoring memo that was sent out to the committee prior to the meeting. This memo was drafted in a response to Emily Roth's questions from last year regarding Katy's monitoring presentation in May 2020. Questions included: 1) how is this information being used to manage the wildlife area; 2) what question(s) are being answered by monitoring; (3) what are the trends over time that been shown by monitoring; 4) are there habitat and wildlife improvements with the restoration work being completed, and 5) are human impacts offsetting the restoration work? The memo answered Emily's questions and also provided context as to how Metro sets conservation objectives and how they measure conservation success. *The memo is included here as Attachment 2.*

Emily asked what the state of Smith and Bybee is. Is it maintaining its ecological health? Is it declining? Katy commented that when you take into account many factors including climate change, user demand, and being surrounded by industrial areas, the site is healthy. There have been more songbirds detected in the prairie, and as the habitat has changed so have the species frequenting it. Lesser goldfinches were more abundant last spring than previously observed. Katy is a bit concerned about the turtle turnout habitat and wants to focus more attention on documenting that. Jonathan added that the restoration projects, including the water control structure upgrade and channel reshaping seem generally successful and we believe there is a positive trend for habitat quality. *Ludwigia peploides* remains a huge concern.

Metro reported the documented presence of juvenile Western Meadowlarks during breeding season as a hopeful sign. Troy mentioned that he has seen Western meadowlarks at the site during winter for 25 years; Katy said that she has had detections of them on two occasions in the central and eastern part of the prairie during nesting season. She stated that there is suitable habitat to support that species nesting here—a mix of native and other species form proper structure and foraging habitat. Native bunchgrass has been planted to help with this, but it takes a while for it to grow and there are challenging soil conditions due to the landfill liner.

Susan inquired as to whether there has been any bat monitoring in the ash forest. Katy said there hasn't been any bat-specific monitoring done since she's been at Metro. However, she believes that

the City, PSU and OSU students have done some monitoring there—she'll follow up. Carrie sent a bat monitoring report that was done in 2002 to the group.

Katy invited committee members to participate in visual encounter surveys for turtles that she is planning for April. Pat, Susan, Max, Daryl, Emily, Troy and Eugenia would like to attend.

COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN (CNRP)

The CNRP will sunset in 2023. The committee would like to know what Metro's intentions are with the renewal. Could there be an amendment that extends the current CNRP or will a new one need to be drafted? The committee won't be able to lead this project; Jonathan mentioned that members of the planning and science teams would be the ones to lead it.

The committee is worried about the "no dogs" policy continuing to be in place, especially with the new St John Prairie Trail and Columbia Blvd. Bridge projects progressing. The current CNRP states that no dogs are allowed, but when this plan sunsets it could trigger a different policy unless the same language is in a new CNRP.

Jonathan will follow up with Metro staff about the CNRP status and hopefully will have answers to these questions by the March meeting.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS UPDATES

There are no new projects this year, but staff are continuing with projects planned in previous years which are in various stages. Emily mentioned that one of the Carex patches has turned into weeds and would like to know if there are other patches in that have been successful. It would help if Elaine could update her map to include where the plantings have been successful and where they haven't. Jonathan will follow up with Elaine about this.

There are other restoration plantings that haven't survived and questions about sedge meadow establishment. Due to climate change, droughts and a variety of other environmental factors, it's difficult to know what the future holds and what may impact the plantings. Jonathan said our main priority for the next year is assessing how KEAs are being met.

Troy mentioned that there is English ivy encroaching at the SE corner of the wildlife area near the Dreiling property. This is an EDRR species and needs to be addressed. Jonathan will follow up about this. Note: Jonathan spoke with the NALM team and they'll be doing appropriate treatment over the next year.

Emily and Susan brought up concerns about the amount of social trails that are being created and used at the site. These informal trails are having an impact on wildlife and should be mitigated. Increased signage in the area could help—could use the signs at Cooper Mountain as an example. Jonathan said that he'd work with staff to research how this can be addressed.

Metro plans to start assessing what projects outlined in the CNRP have been completed and which ones still need to be done. The project is slated to begin this spring/summer and Jonathan will keep the committee updated and offer opportunities for engagement.

In terms of the budget, Metro is covering over 63 percent of costs associated with restoration so that the SB Fund can be preserved. At the end of fiscal year 2022, the Fund balance should be somewhere around \$1.6 million which is very good news. He shared a spreadsheet that outlined allocation of funds to different projects at the site. *Attachment 3.*

Troy mentioned that the committee never heard back from management regarding their request to hold \$1 million in the Fund as a buffer. Jonathan will follow up with Jon Blasher and Dan Moeller about this.

NW METALS, INC. DEQ PERMITS

DEQ is taking public comment on whether to issue an air quality permit for NW Metals, Inc. to operate a diesel-powered, mobile metal shredder at 9537 N. Columbia Blvd. right near the entrance to St. Johns Prairie/landfill. This site was formerly A&B Auto Wrecking.

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/aq/cao/Pages/nwmetals.aspx>

NW Metals, Inc. is the business that had the huge fire in Cully two years ago that destroyed homes and led to a large section of the neighborhood to be evacuated.

<https://www.wweek.com/news/2018/07/04/a-five-alarm-fire-at-a-junkyard-sent-toxic-smoke-billowing-through-a-portland-residential-neighborhood-state-regulators-had-looked-the-other-way/>

DEQ has had to go to court since then to try to force NW Metals to be compliant on several fronts.

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Programs/Pages/nescrap.aspx>

Is the committee interested in writing a letter to DEQ about this? The public comment period closes on February 8, 2021. Troy suggested that we should ask DEQ for NW Metals' operation to be enclosed. Susan has researched the company and discovered that they have a history of egregious behavior and think it'd be in the committee's best interest to be proactive and help the corporate neighbors contemplate how they might address this in the future.

Jonathan mentioned that the Parks and Nature attorney is currently drafting a letter to them; the St. Johns Neighborhood Association and Columbia Slough Watershed Council have also written letters in opposition. Max Samuelson of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council wrote this letter on his organization's behalf and is happy to share the wealth of materials he gathered.

Troy Clark and Carrie Butler will draft a letter and send it out to the committee for review.

Note: this letter has been drafted and sent to DEQ. *Attachment 4.*

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING AND WRAP-UP

Eugenia Tam and Pat Jewett expressed interest in inviting Raven Russell from the Bybee Lakes Hope Center to a future meeting to provide updates. Emily would like the committee to focus on what is happening outside of the building/natural resource impacts. Pat is interested in the efficacy of the program thus far in reducing the houseless population in St Johns and along trails in the area. Eugenia would like to know if there is a potential for a Good Neighbor Agreement.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Visual encounter turtle surveys in April.**
 - **Katy** to follow up with committee members interested in participating.
- **Carex success rate.** Can Elaine update her map to reflect where Carex has been successful and where it has failed?
 - **Jonathan** to follow up with Elaine about this.
- **SB Fund response from management.** Never received a formal follow-up to the letter the committee sent a while ago.
 - **Jonathan** to follow up with Jon Blasher and Dan Moeller.
- **Signage near social trails.** More signage is needed to deter folks from creating and using social trails. Perhaps similar to those installed at Cooper Mountain.
 - **Jonathan** to follow up with Andrea and Elaine about this.
- **CNRP.**
 - What happens when the plan sunsets? What are Metro's intentions around renewal? Will the "no dogs" policy still be in place?
 - **Jonathan** to follow up with Metro staff about this and might have an answer by the March meeting.
- **Bybee Lake Hope Center updates.**
 - **Troy** to reach out to Raven Russell for updates regarding construction outside of the building, natural resource impacts; efficacy of program in reducing the houseless population in St Johns and along trails in the area; potential for a Good Neighbor Agreement.

NEXT MEETING

March 23, 2021
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

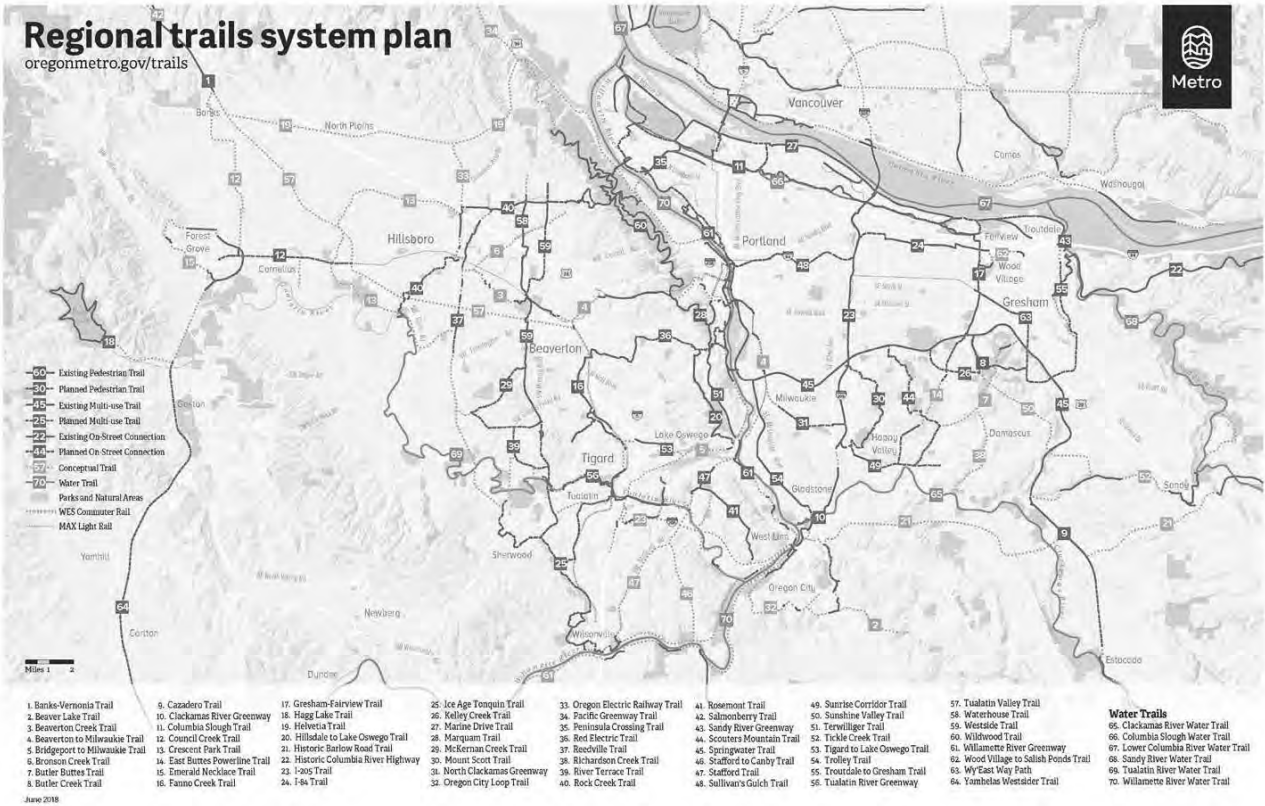


Columbia Blvd Bridge PROJECT UPDATE

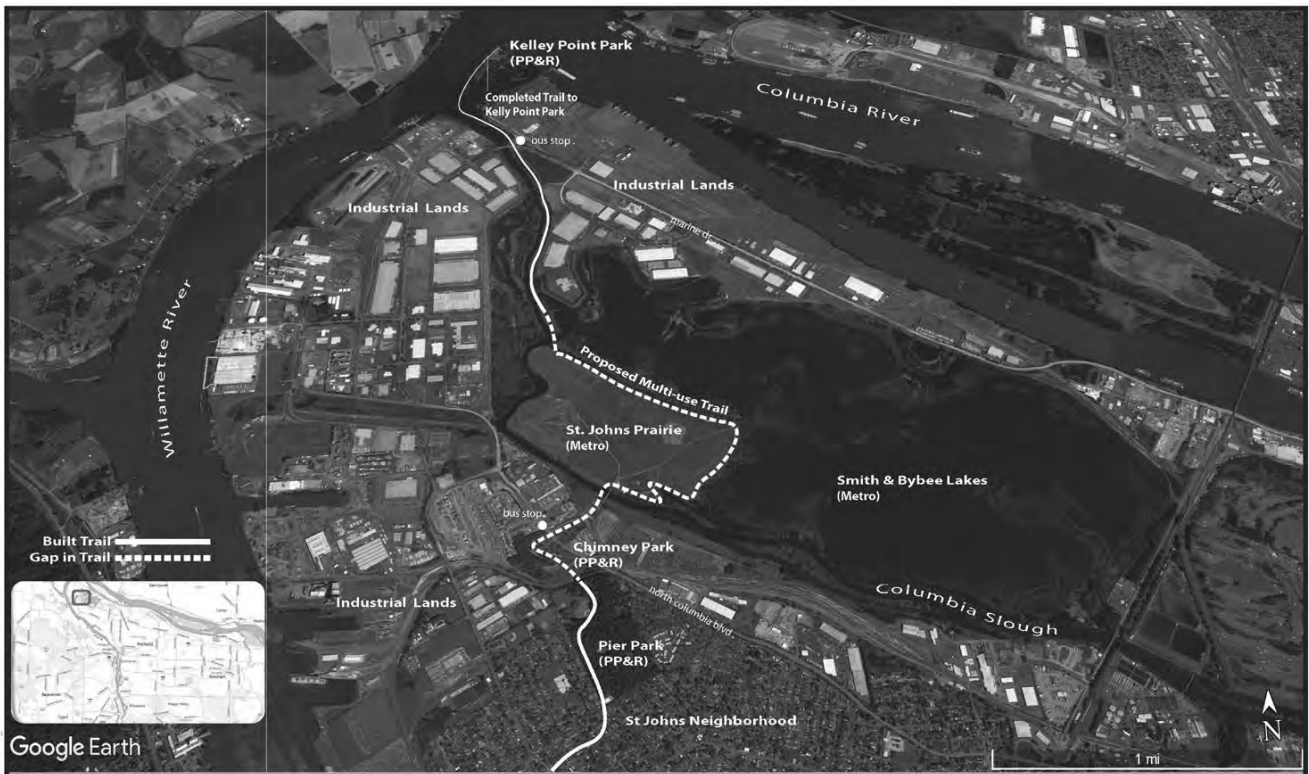
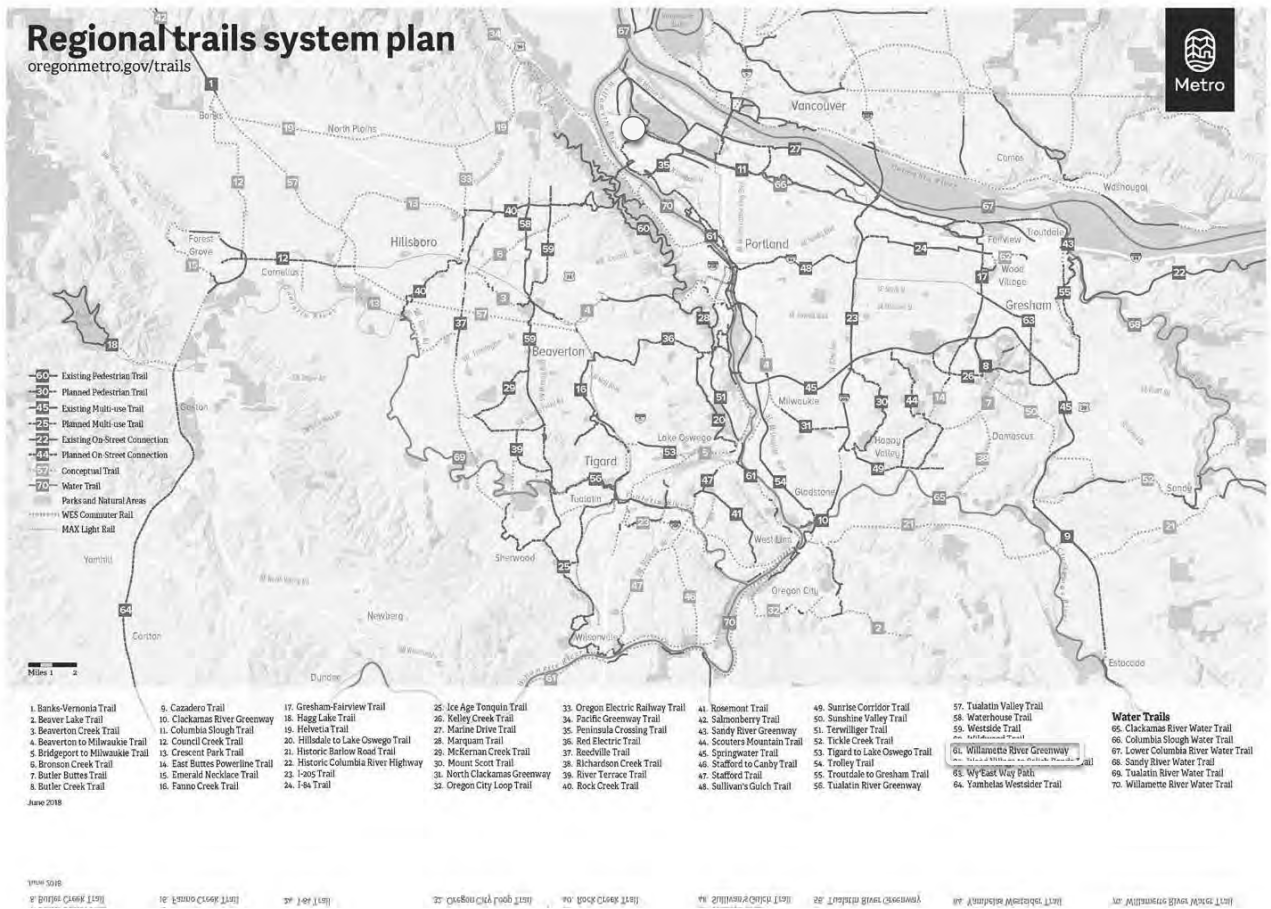
Tuesday, Jan 26, 2021



ATTACHMENT 1



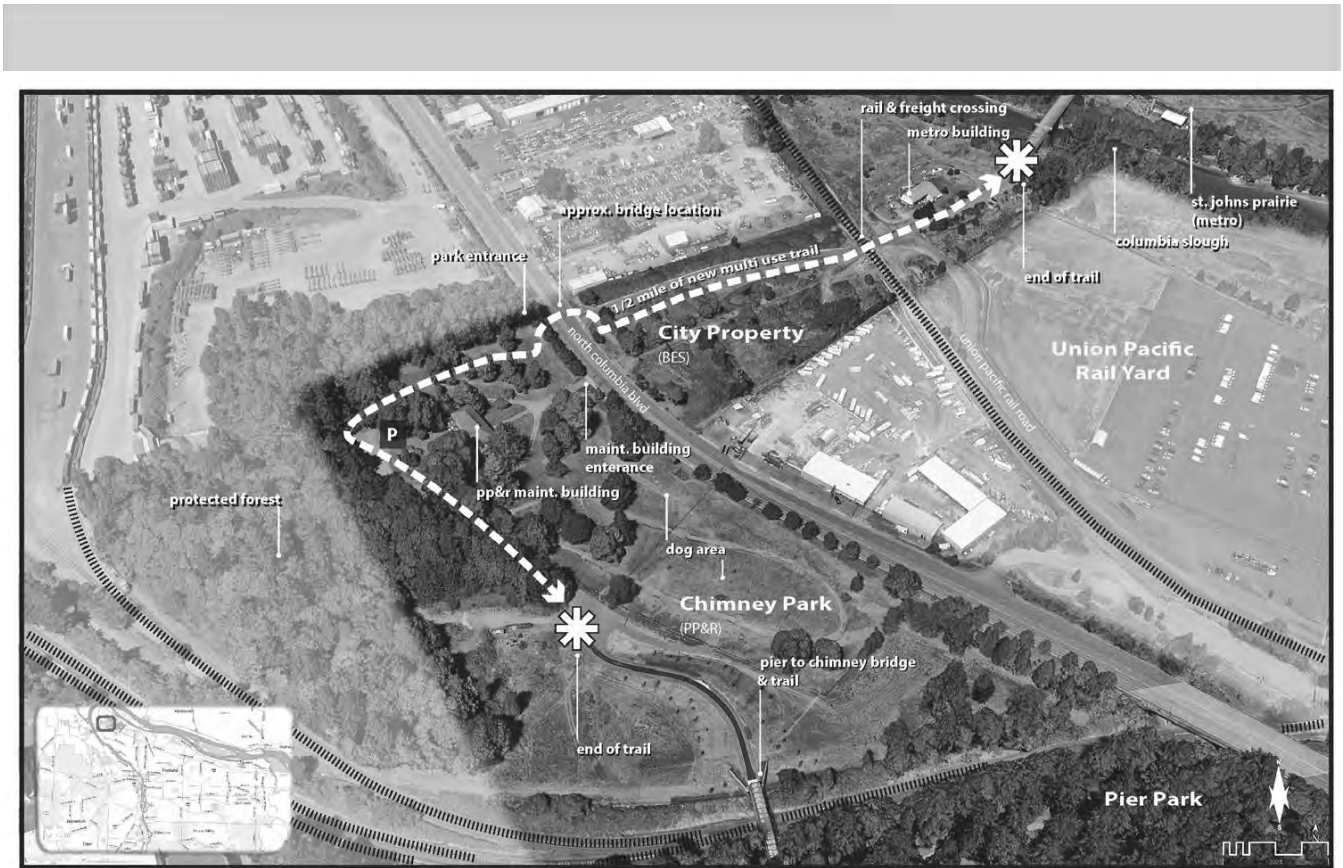
ATTACHMENT 1



North Portland Greenway
COLUMBIA BLVD. BRIDGE & TRAIL

Greenway Gap Context Map

ATTACHMENT 1



Who lives here?

Age Distribution

Under 5 (8%, 1079) 5 to 17 (15%, 1918) 18 to 21 (9%, 1139) 22 to 39 (30%, 3727) 40 to 64 (27%, 3416) 65 and over (7%, 928)

Household Types

Families w/ Children (20%, 780) Families w/o Children (44%, 1728) Female w/o Male (19%, 748) Male w/o Female (7%) One-Person Male (2%, 99) One-Person Female (5%, 229)

Race Distribution

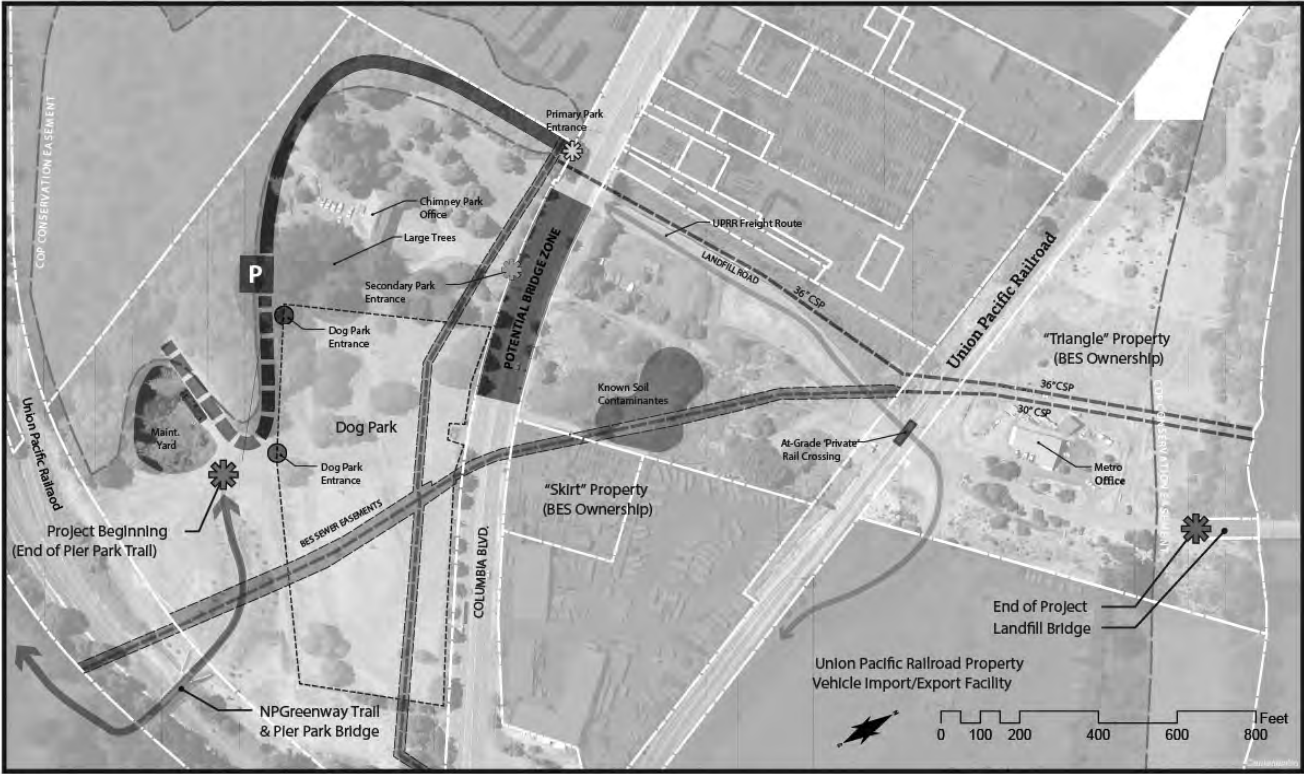
White (64%, 8456) Black (11%, 1514) Native American, Alaskan (4%, 609) Native Islander (1%, 237) Asian (5%, 722) Hispanic (20%, 2660) Other (12%, 1644)

From this information we know that there is **an opportunity to engage families with children and youth (30% of population is under 21 yrs.)**. Also, more than **20% of the community identifies as Hispanic with a total of 36% identifying as a race other than white**. This is supported by PPS data for James John Elementary School. 36% of students identify as White, 26% are English Language Learners and 59% are counted as historically underserved.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



ATTACHMENT 1

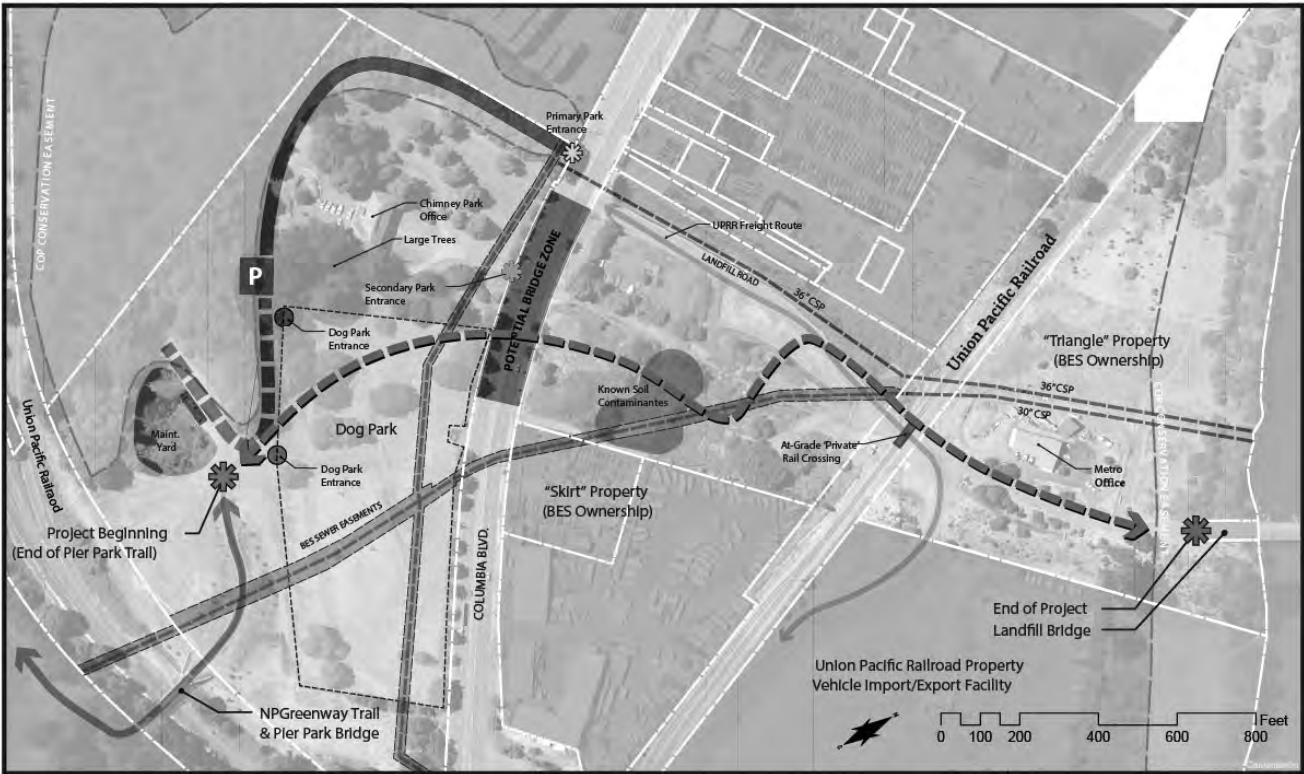


Metro

North Portland Greenway
COLUMBIA BLVD. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

CONTEXT MAP

May 2018



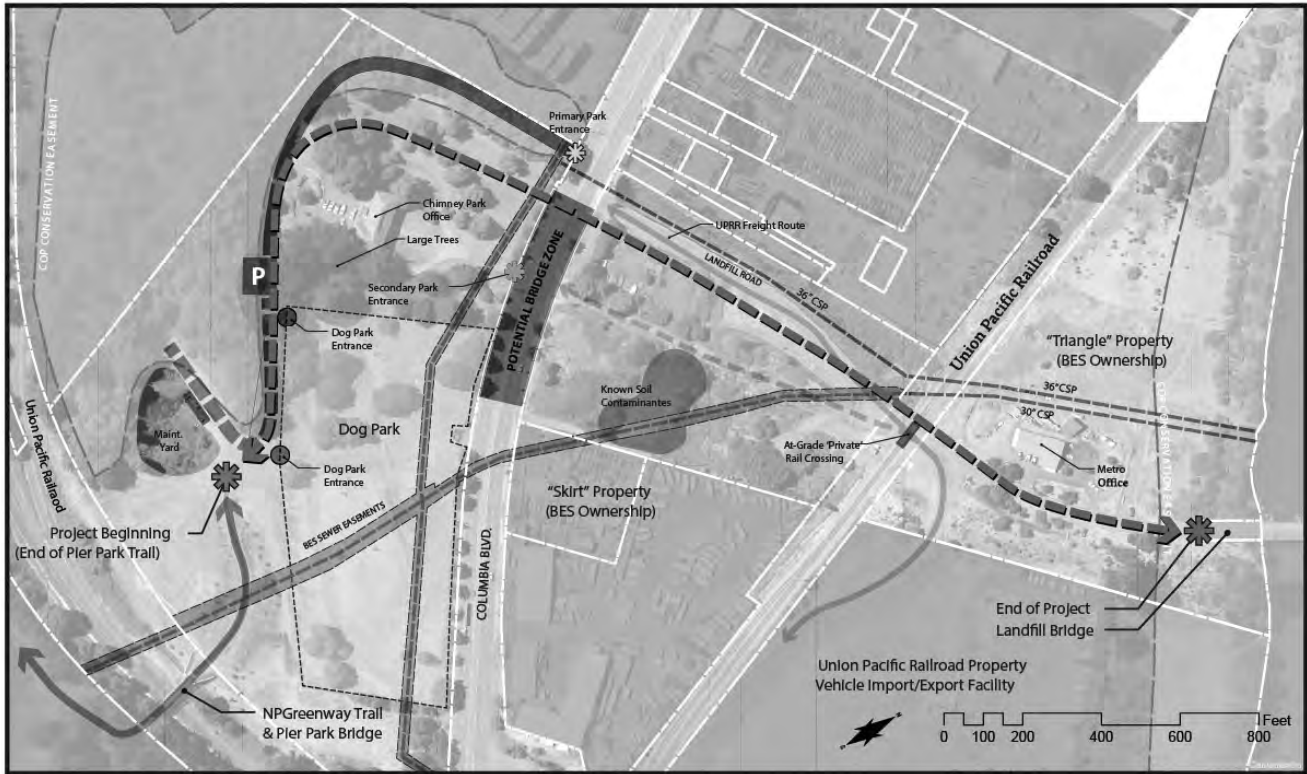
Metro

North Portland Greenway
COLUMBIA BLVD. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Possible Alignment #1

May 2018

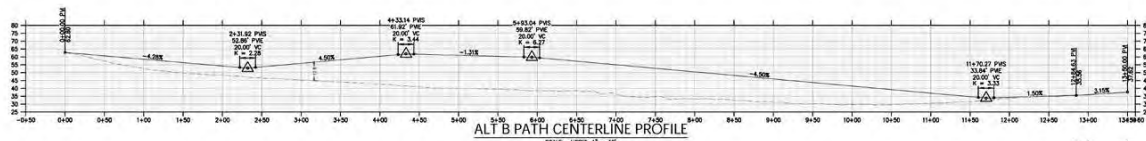
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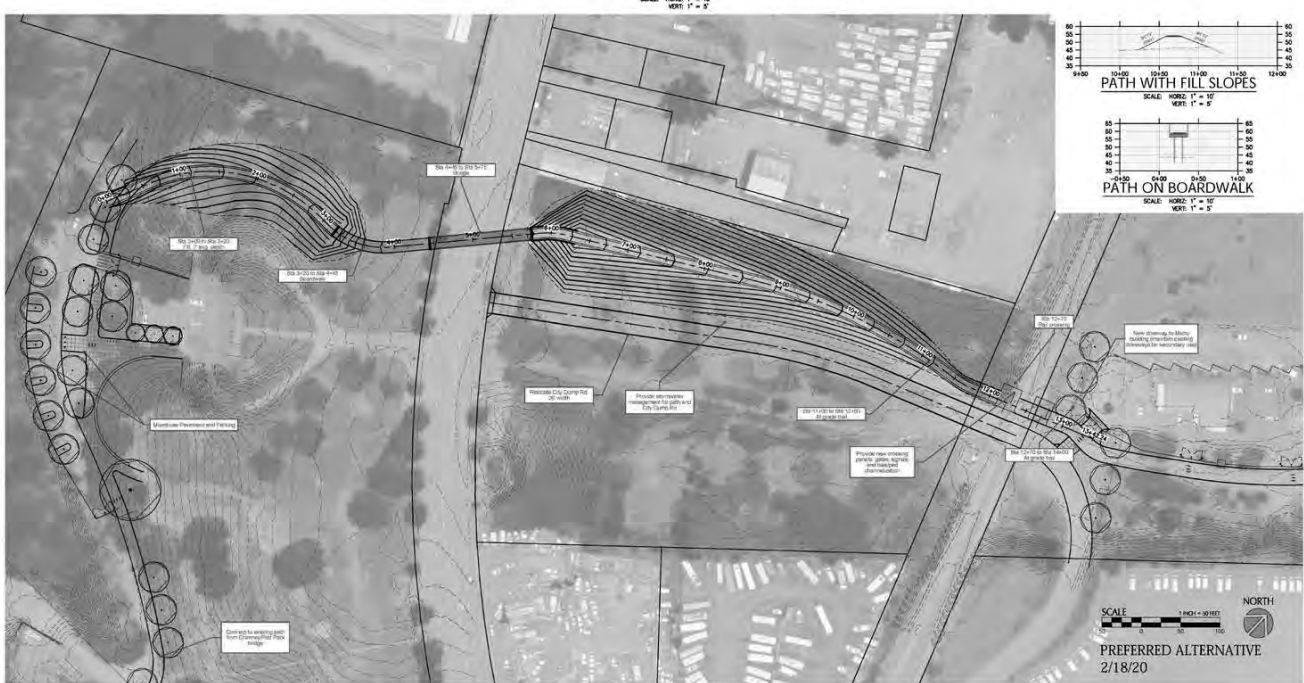
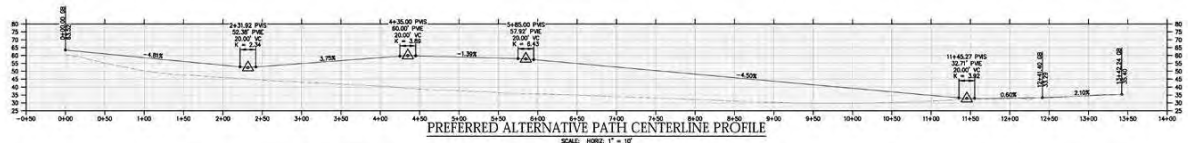
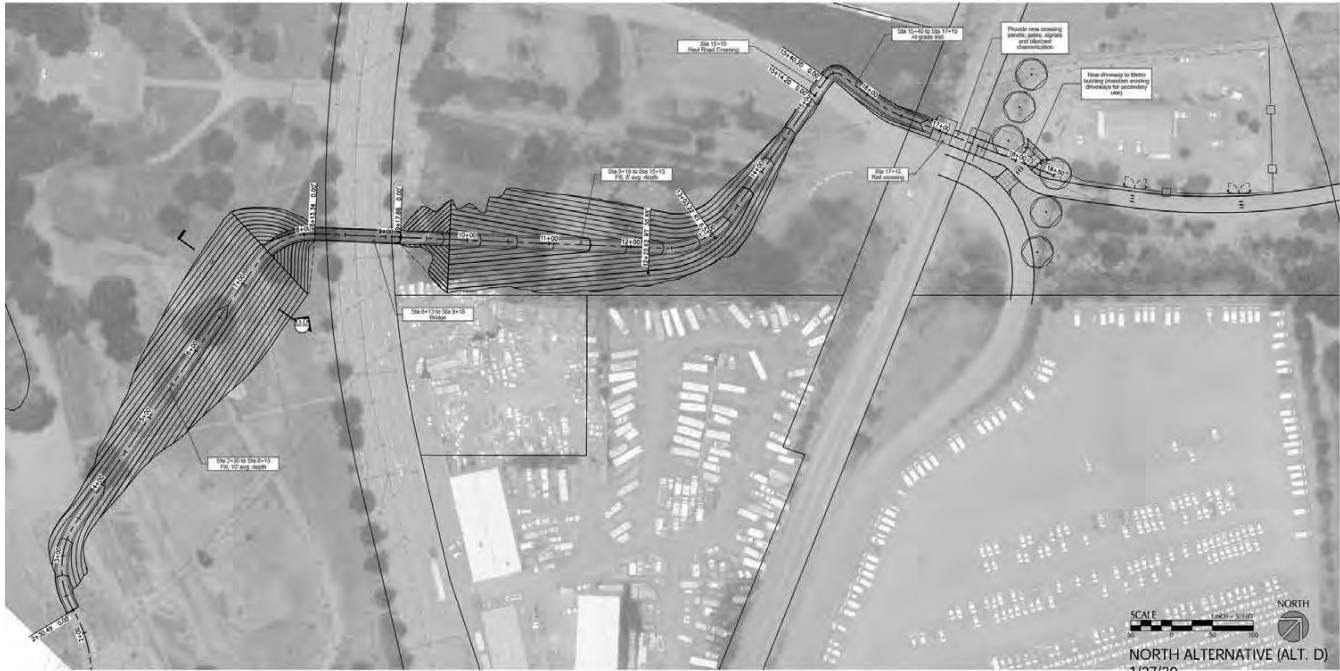
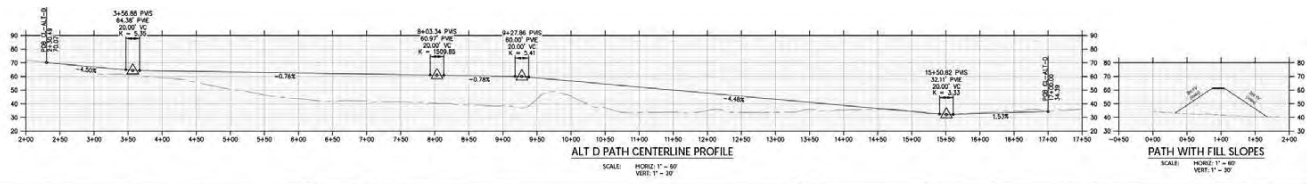
North Portland Greenway
COLUMBIA BLVD. BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Possible Alignment #2

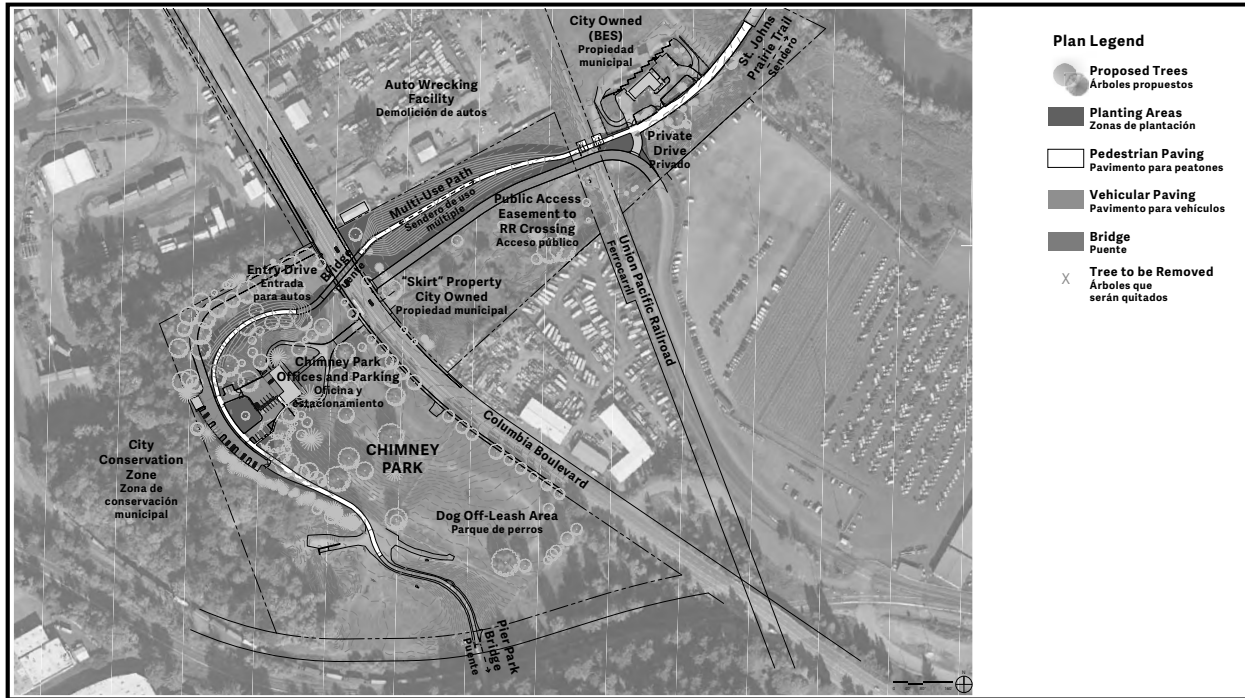
May 2018



ATTACHMENT 1



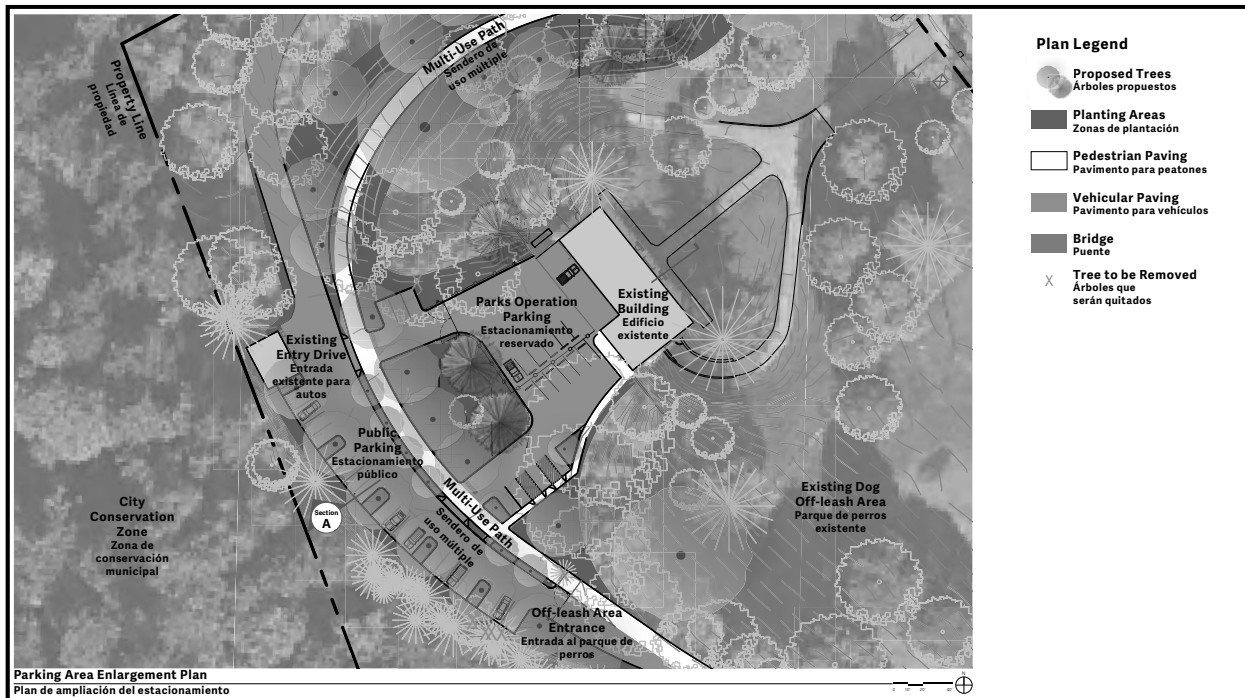
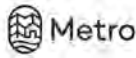
ATTACHMENT 1



Willamette Greenway Trail
BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
Willamette Greenway Sendero
PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

PROJECT EXTENTS (F) Alcances del proyecto

MAY, 2020
MAYO, 2020



Parking Area Enlargement Plan
Plan de ampliación del estacionamiento

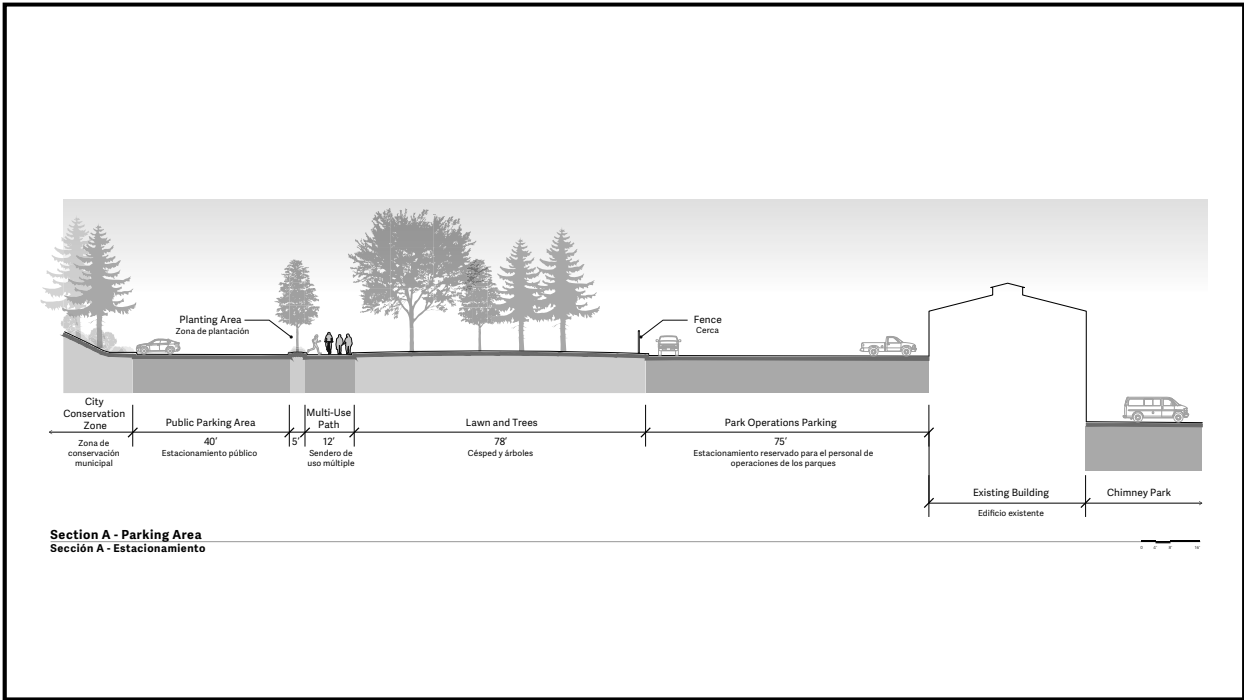
Willamette Greenway Trail
BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
Willamette Greenway Sendero
PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

CHIMNEY PARK ENTRY (G) Entrada al parque

MAY, 2020
MAYO, 2020



ATTACHMENT 1

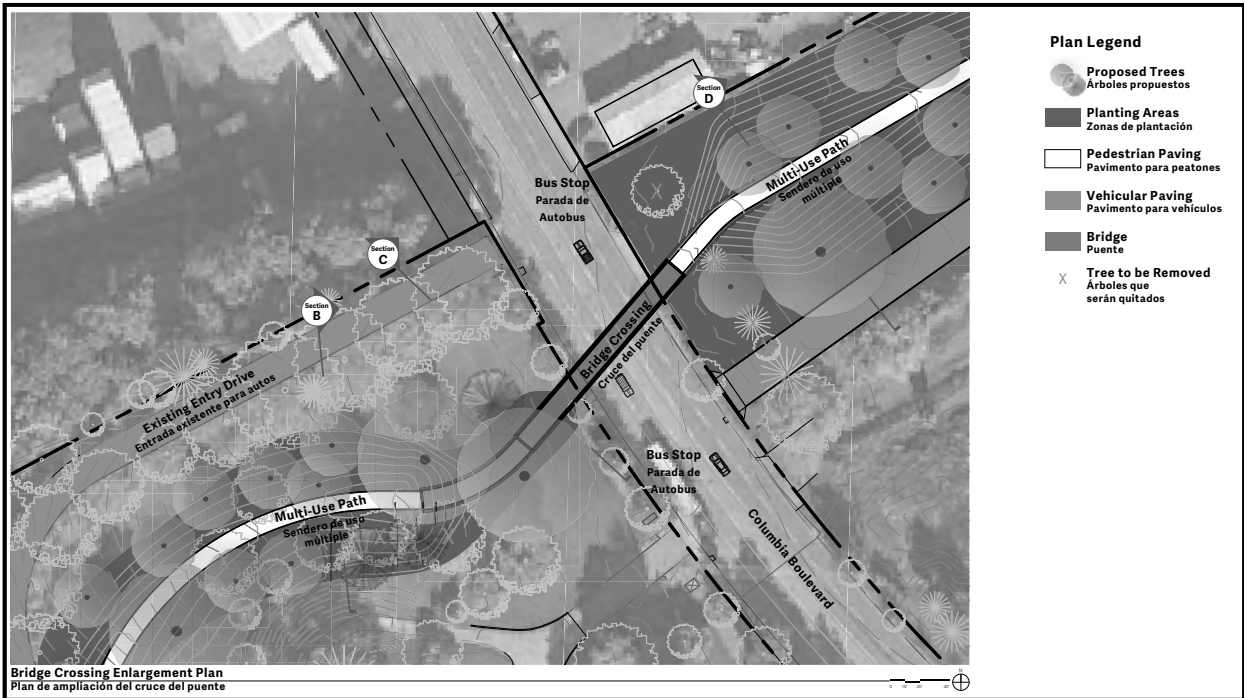


Willamette Greenway Trail
BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
Willamette Greenway Sendero
PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

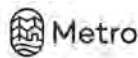


CHIMNEY PARK ENTRY (H) Entrada al parque

MAY, 2020
MAYO, 2020



Willamette Greenway Trail
BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
Willamette Greenway Sendero
PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

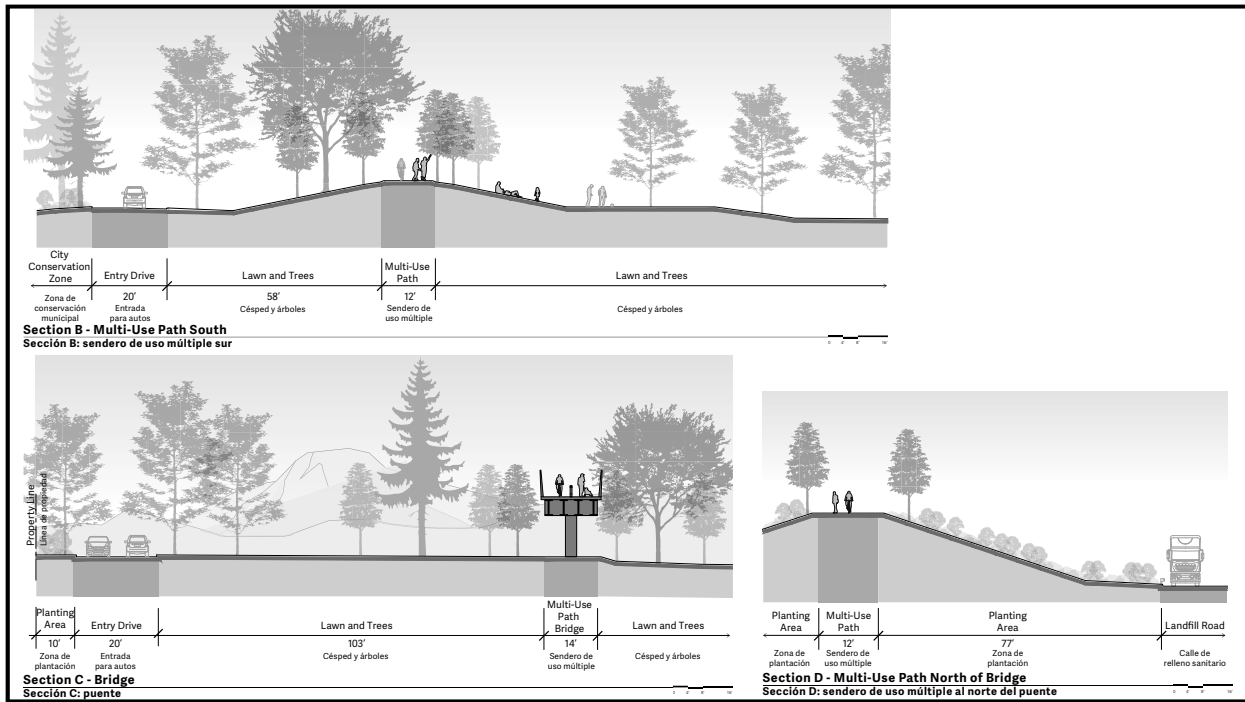


TRAIL ALIGNMENT (I) Alineación del sendero

MAY, 2020
MAYO, 2020



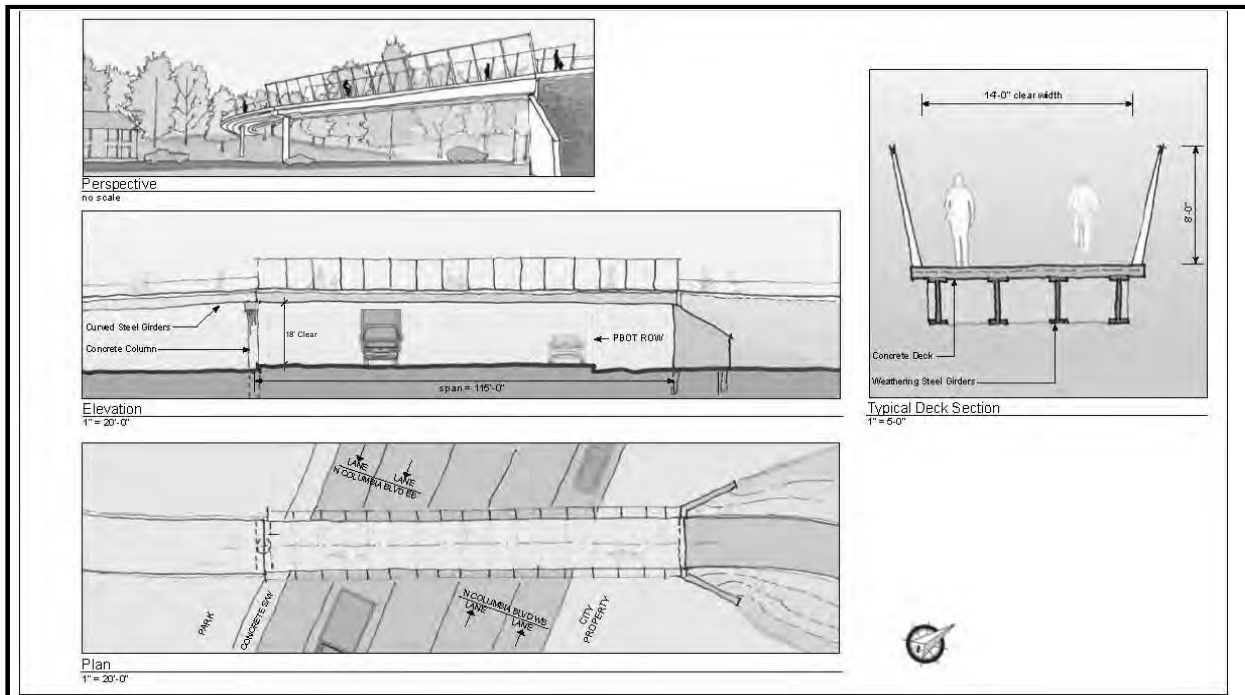
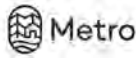
ATTACHMENT 1



Willamette Greenway Trail
 BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
 Willamette Greenway Sendero
 PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

TRAIL ALIGNMENT (J) Alineación del sendero

MAY, 2020
 MAYO, 2020

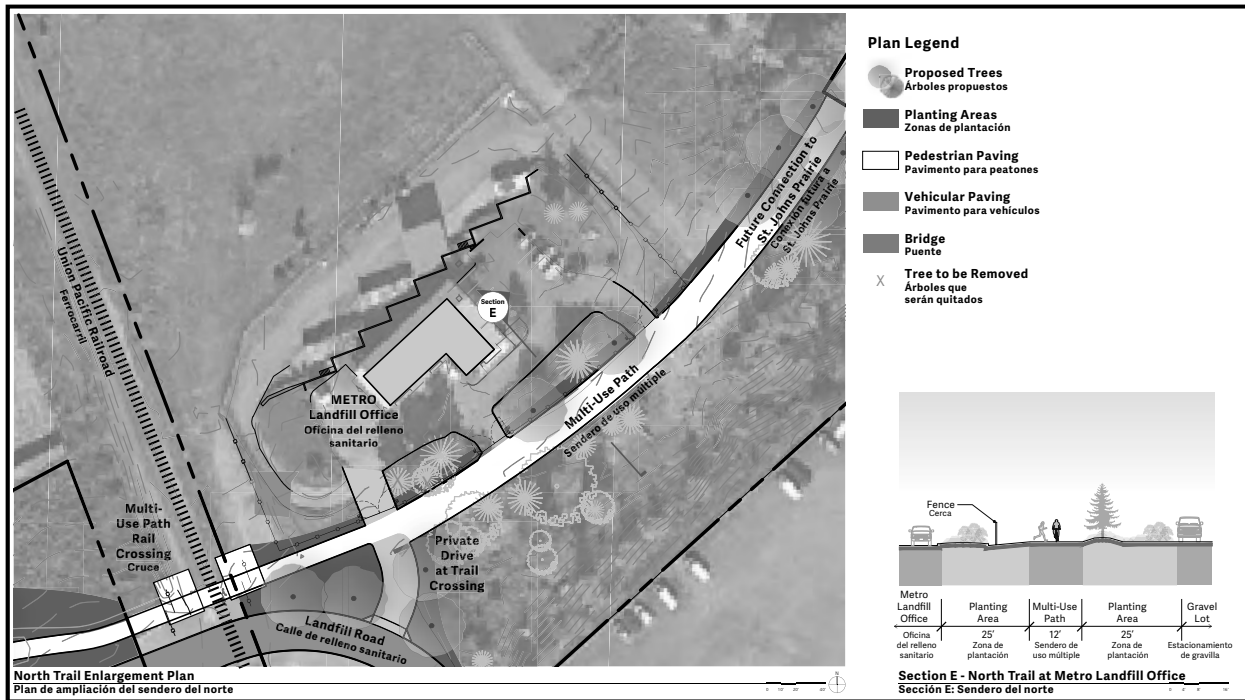


Willamette Greenway Trail
 BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
 Willamette Greenway Sendero
 PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.

PREFERRED BRIDGE TYPE (K) Tipo de puente preferido

MAY, 2020
 MAYO, 2020



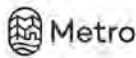


Willamette Greenway Trail
BRIDGE OVER COLUMBIA BLVD.
Willamette Greenway Sendero
PUENTE SOBRE COLUMBIA BLVD.



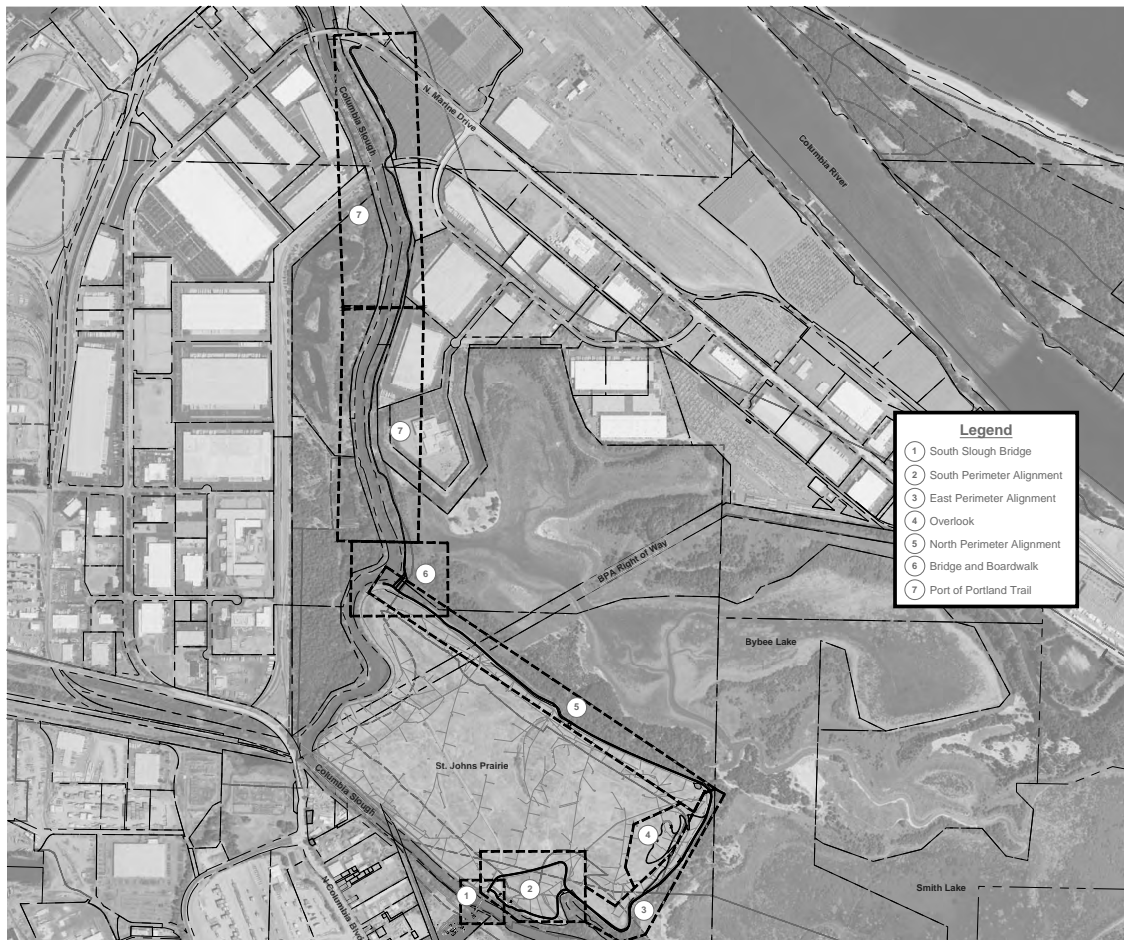
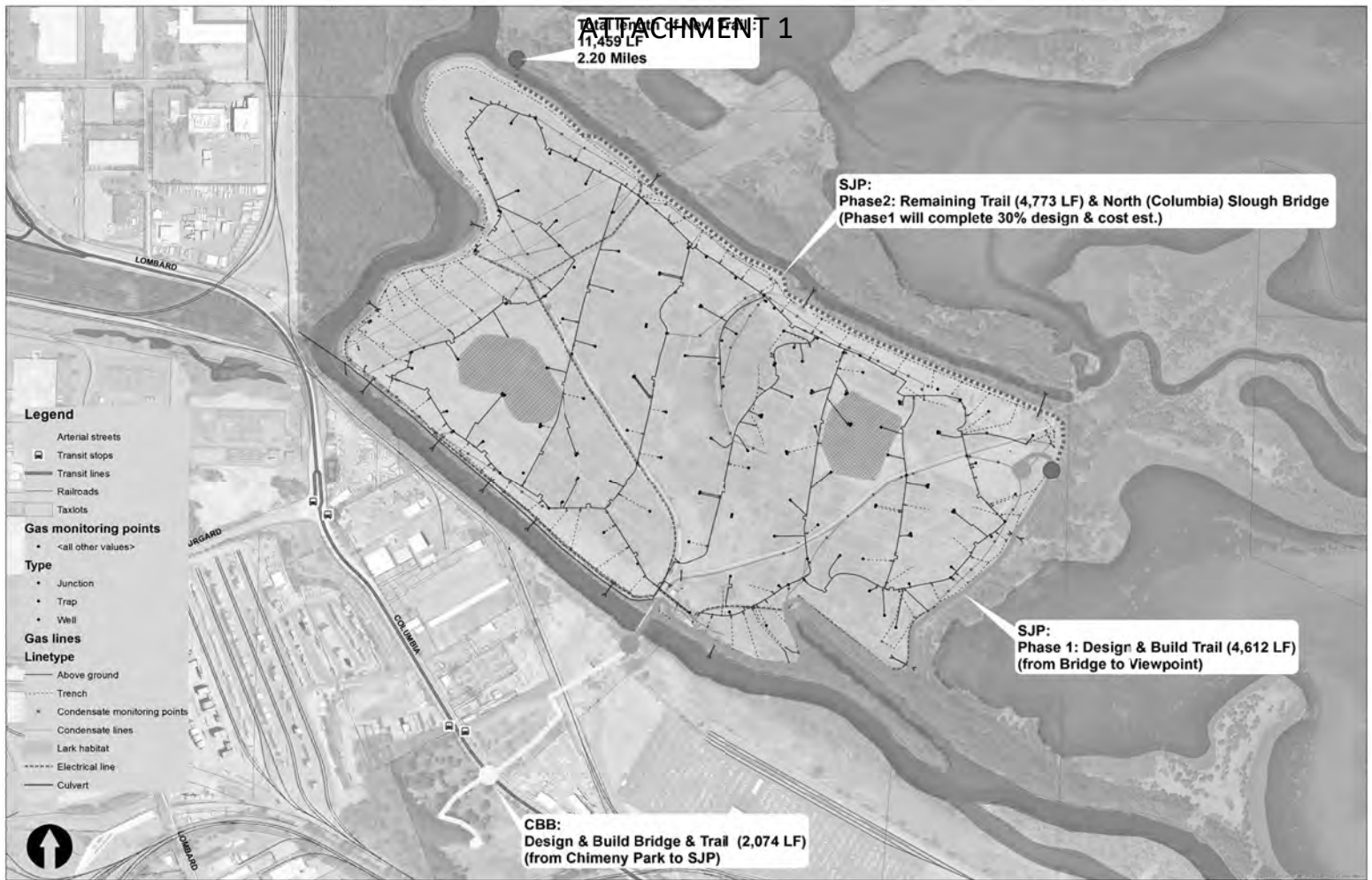
NORTH TRAIL (L) Sendero del norte

MAY, 2020
MAYO, 2020



St Johns Prairie Trail PROJECT UPDATE

Tuesday, Jan 26, 2021



Appendix A
Overview

ATTACHMENT 1



Shelter - example image



Zig Zag Fence - example image



Rustic Fence - example image

Segment 4A - Overlook and Fencing CNRP option



Shelter - example image



Viewpoint - example image

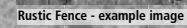
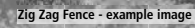
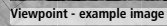
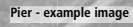


Zig Zag Fence - example image

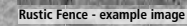
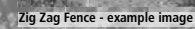
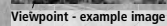


Rustic Fence - example image

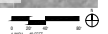
Segment 4B - Overlook and Fencing



MATCHLINE, REF. SEG 3



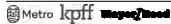
MATCHLINE REF. SEQ. 2



Overlook Concept Images



The image contains two hand-drawn architectural sketches. The top sketch is a plan view of a circular structure, possibly a bridge deck or a large circular building. It features a thick outer ring and a central area with radial lines. Labels include 'Aluminum Steel Canopy Archhead', 'Concrete Retaining Wall Top', 'Slope Side of Handrail', and 'Slope Side'. The bottom sketch is a cross-section of a bridge or walkway. It shows a flat deck supported by vertical posts, with a canopy structure above. Labels include 'Aluminum Steel Canopy', 'Post Support Column', 'Concrete Retaining Wall Top', 'Slope Side of Handrail', and 'Slope Side'. Both sketches are drawn with fine lines and include various annotations and dimensions.



St. Johns Prairie Trail | Preliminary Design | NOVEMBER, 2020

30% DESIGN



SHEET COUNT	SHEET NUMBER	SHEET NAME
1	C100	COVER SHEET
2	C101	SYMBOLS, LEGENDS AND ABBREVIATIONS
3	C103	KEY PLAN
4-27	C104-C130	TRAIL PLAN AND PROFILE
28-32	C131-C138	OVERLOOK TRAIL PLAN AND PROFILE
33	C400	CBL DETAILS
34	L101	OVERLOOK SITE MATERIALS PLAN
35	L102	BOARDWALKS AND BIRDWEGHEAD SITE MATERIALS PLAN
36	L110	SITE SECTION ELEVATION
37	L201	SEGMENT 4 SPRU TRAIL SEEDING PLAN
38	L301	SEGMENT 5 BIRDWEGHEAD SEEDING PLAN
39-45	L301-L302	SITE DETAILS
46	L303	OVERLOOK STRUCTURE FOUNDATION AND FRAMING PLAN

CONS

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[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

JOB No.: _____
DESIGNED BY: _____

DRAWN BY: JRC
CHECKED BY:
PLOT DATE: 1/13/2021 3:43 PM

PLOTTED BY: Skatchum
DWG NAME: 900176-C100-CV.dwg

TAB NAME	C100

110

100

1

PRO
NIRIE TRA
SHEET

METHODS: 100 patients with a confirmed diagnosis of PCP were included in the study. The patients were divided into two groups according to the type of treatment received. The first group received intravenous (i.v.) cotrimoxazole and the second group received oral cotrimoxazole. The patients were followed up for 12 weeks. The primary endpoint was the clinical response rate. The secondary endpoints were the rate of adverse effects, the rate of relapse, and the rate of mortality.

ST. J.	C
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100

100

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SHEET NO.

C100

C100

SHEET 1 OF 41

RECORD NO.

11

ATTACHMENT 1

30% DESIGN

kpff

111 3RD AVE., SUITE 2000
PACIFIC, CA 94404
P: 415.774.2000
F: 415.774.2001
WWW.KPFF.COM

**PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REVISION

JOB NO.:
DESIGNED BY:
DRAWN BY:
CHECKED BY:
PLAT DATE: 1/13/2021 2:27 PM
PLATTED BY:
DWG NAME: 30774210487.dwg
TAB NAME: C103

METRO
ST. JOHNS PANDE TRAIL
KEY PLAN

SHEET NO.
C103

RECORD NO.



FILE: \\s:\projects\30774210487.dwg; PLOT: 30774210487.dwg; PLOT DATE: 1/13/2021 2:27 PM; PLOT BY: J. J. JONES

30% DESIGN

kpff

111 3RD AVE., SUITE 2000
PACIFIC, CA 94404
P: 415.774.2000
F: 415.774.2001
WWW.KPFF.COM

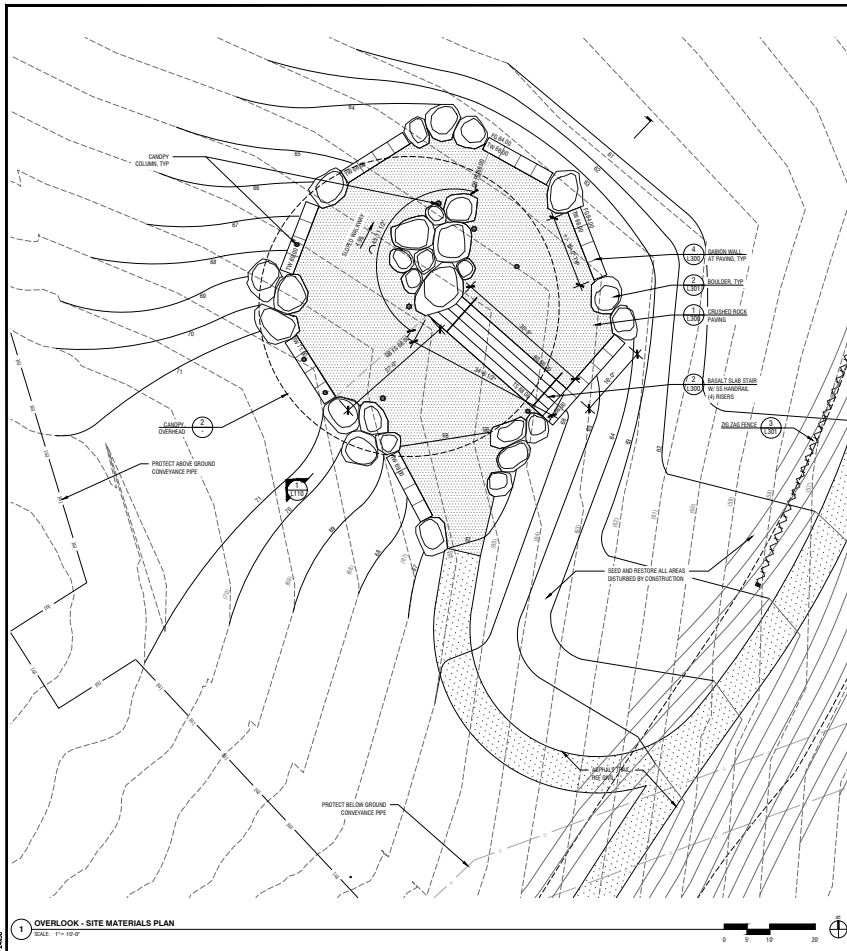
**PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION**

JOB NO.:
DESIGNED BY: EX/IRC
DRAWN BY: EX
CHECKED BY:
PLAT DATE: 1/13/2021 12:30 PM
PLATTED BY:
DWG NAME: 30774210487.dwg
TAB NAME: L101

METRO
ST. JOHNS PANDE TRAIL
OVERLOOK SITE MATERIALS PLAN

SHEET NO.
L101

RECORD NO.



GENERAL LEGEND

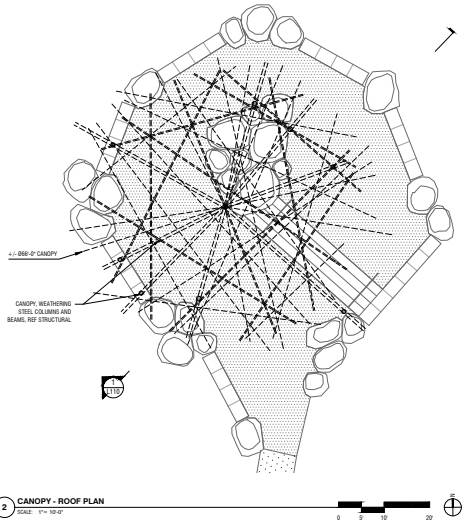
- PROPERTY LINE
- PLASTER FENCE, REF. CHAIN FOR LAYOUT
- ZIG ZAG FENCE, REF. CHAIN FOR LAYOUT
- CRUSHED ROCK PAVING
- BLACK BASALT BOULDER, SIZE VARIES 12" TO 24" x 12" x 12"
- EXISTING CONTOUR - 1 FT INTERVAL
- PROPOSED CONTOUR - 1 FT INTERVAL
- GRADE BREAK
- SLOPE PERCENT
- FINISH SURFACE ELEVATION (HARDSCAPE)
- FINISH GRADE ELEVATION (SOFTSCAPE)
- TOP OF WALL ELEVATION
- TOP OF STAIR ELEVATION
- BOTTOM OF STAIR ELEVATION

SITE NOTES

1. LOCATE ALL UNDERGROUND, SURFACE AND OVERHEAD UTILITIES PRIOR TO ANY WORK.
2. DESIGN LAW REQUIRES YOU TO FOLLOW RULES ADOPTED BY THE DESIGN UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER. THESE RULES ARE NOT FOR YOU TO FOLLOW. YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE RULES BY CALLING THE CENTER. SO THAT UTILITIES MAY BE ACCURATELY LOCATED, EXCAVATIONS MUST NOTIFY ALL PERMANENT COMPANIES OR AGENCIES WITH UNDERGROUND UTILITIES IN THE PROJECT AREA AT LEAST 4 BUSINESS DAY HOURS BUT NOT MORE THAN 10 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO COMMENCING AN EXCAVATION.
3. IT IS THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ASCERTAIN ALL FACTS CONCERNING CONDITIONS TO BE FOUND AT THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND GEOLOGICAL SURFACE OF THE GROUND AND TO FULLY COMPLY WITH THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS. ANY DISCREPANCIES IN DIMENSIONS OR LAYOUT SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO THE ALTERATION OF PLANTING.
4. CONSTRUCTION SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EACH PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION. VERIFY DIMENSIONS REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO PROCEEDING WITH WORK. WHERE COMPLY IS DETERMINED, CODE OF PRACTICE, RECORD, OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE WRITTEN CORRECTION AND INFORMATION TO PROCEED SHALL BE AT THE CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.
5. PROTECT ALL LANDFILL INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND PIPES, MONITORING WELLS AND LINES.

GENERAL NOTES

1. LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTS ARE BASED ON A SURVEY BY KPFF DATED 04.04.2004. NOTIFY OWNERS REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY DISCREPANCIES IDENTIFIED ON SITE RELATED TO SURVEY INFORMATION PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.
2. REFERENCE CHAIN DRAWINGS FOR GRADING AND DRAINAGE, TRAIL INFORMATION, FENCING AND LAYOUT.
3. REFERENCE STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS FOR FOOTINGS AND REINFORCEMENT.



FILE: \\s:\projects\30774210487.dwg; PLOT: 30774210487.dwg; PLOT DATE: 1/13/2021 12:30 PM; PLOT BY: J. J. JONES

SHEET NO.

L110

SHEET 36 OF 41

RECORD NO.




Metro

 600 NE Grand Ave.
 Portland, OR 97232-2736

Memo

Date: Friday, January 8, 2021
 To: Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee
 From: Elaine Stewart, Katy Weil and Jonathan Soll
 Subject: Wildlife monitoring at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Summary description of efforts to date and response to questions from Emily Roth, Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee member.

This document summarizes existing wildlife monitoring information, places it in the context of Metro's approach to setting conservation objectives and measuring conservation success and provides answers to specific questions raised by Emily Roth, Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes' representative on the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee.

Context

Before diving into the specific questions, context is needed.

1. When Jonathan Soll came to Metro, he brought the Conservation Action Planning (CAP, 5-S or enhanced 5-S) process from the Nature Conservancy and we began using that framework to plan, prioritize and implement restoration, management and monitoring. CAP focuses on habitat metrics as an umbrella for wildlife rather than using direct wildlife metrics in most cases, so most of our specific objectives are plant-based and the associated monitoring is plant-based as well. In the CAP framework, species (plants or animals) are used as conservation targets with measures of success only when their management needs are not captured by habitat type based approaches.
2. Although we use CAP as a conservation planning framework, our broader conservation objectives for Smith-Bybee continue to extend to the animal kingdom. For example, habitat work is intended to provide wildlife benefits to several priority species and wildlife guilds. We collaborate with partners such as like Partners In Flight and Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to identify the needs we can assist with, and to focus our efforts on the most urgent needs and where we can provide the greatest benefits. Examples include:
 - a. Planting trees in gaps in the riparian and bottomland forest to reduce fragmentation and provide habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds, as well as providing refuge for them from edge-dwelling competitors/parasites/predators (like cowbirds and starlings).
 - b. Drawing down water levels in the wetlands in time for migratory shorebirds to have valuable stopover habitat and refuel along their migration routes.
 - c. Providing access through the water control structure for juvenile salmonids to use off-channel habitat for feeding and refuge from high flows.
 - d. Managing the St John's Prairie to benefit grassland birds, including an attempt to attract Streaked Horned Larks and mowing 20% or less of the area each year.

3. Wildlife monitoring can provide the ultimate measure of success. If we document the species using the habitat as we intended, that is the best endorsement we can hope for. Unfortunately, wildlife populations and habitat occupancy can vary for reasons beyond the control of local habitat management. Songbird numbers may decline due to conditions in wintering habitats or during migration. Regional wildlife numbers may be so low that there are no dispersing individuals available to occupy the habitat no matter how good it is (think Streaked Horned Lark, perhaps?). The absence of wildlife that may be documented in monitoring may not be due to our work. Furthermore, the presence of animals alone, even in breeding season, is not necessarily an adequate measure of success and accurately determining breeding status, breeding success and other more meaningful measures such as population size is expensive. For those reasons among others, that is why we choose to primarily rely on plant metrics for documenting the progress toward habitat goals.
4. At Smith-Bybee, we do have two wildlife conservation targets in addition to the habitat targets. Although we have wildlife targets, the KEAs remain habitat focused (e.g., vegetation height, connectivity of water and nesting sites) and do not include metrics for numbers of animals or area occupied, etc.

The wildlife targets are:

- a. Western painted turtle: Smith-Bybee has what is believed to be the largest population in Oregon.
- b. Streaked horned lark: Although still supporting extensive infrastructure, the former St Johns Landfill, now called St John's Prairie, is one of the largest grassland habitat patches in the region. Metro has attempted to provide areas for Larks that are good habitat and safe from development. Initially at least, we hoped to attract animals from the Rivergate population as the Port of Portland ceased managing for them.

Wildlife monitoring information that we have (and see table at end of document)**1. Painted turtle visual surveys and mark-recapture work.**

The big push to determine population size and other demographic information was completed in 2001. Population estimate was about 450 painted turtles, although the 95% CI was very, very wide. We documented a range of ages, which indicates successful reproduction and recruitment into the population. We also identified the most important nesting habitat and used that knowledge to spur the move of parking, paddle launching and visitor amenities to areas distant from there. We have no plans to repeat the mark-recapture work; visual surveys conducted strategically every 5 or 10 years could verify presence and a rough magnitude of the population size. ODFW or other natural resource trustees have not asked Metro to do this monitoring, and they do not appear to be tracking these populations. Graduate students and other volunteers have collected data on nesting in recent years.

2. Amphibian monitoring.

2006 pond breeding surveys, and two spot checks for breeding amphibians since then, as well as consistent channel monitoring during the summer months for evidence of malformed adult amphibians).

We have done few egg mass surveys for several reasons. The site is so large that this work would be difficult at best, and includes limited habitat for some sensitive species (e.g., red-legged frogs). We have two reliable reports of adult red-legged frogs seen there, but Smith-Bybee is probably not very important to their conservation in the region. The shortage of attachment material, coupled with the movement of water in the site (including late spring drying) make it less than ideal for red-legged frogs. The channel between Smith and Bybee Lakes supports a substantial American bullfrog population. Bullfrogs can alert herpetologists to the presence of amphibian disease in the system. Assessment can help us answer the question whether there are malformed frogs present, for example. We ensure that the integration of disease monitoring is a standard part of all surveys

3. Salmonid monitoring.

Ducks Unlimited, as our partner at the Smith-Bybee water control structure project, monitored salmonids using the wetlands. It was very challenging because the system is very big and typical seining techniques could cover only small portions of the area. Two-way fish traps within the structure enabled PIT-tagging juvenile fish to track their residency, but flood events opened pathways into the wetlands through the forests along North Slough and circumvented the traps. In spite of all the obstacles, DU was able to verify use of the wetlands by juvenile Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead. Since the value of the habitat has been proven, Metro monitors the fishway seasonally to ensure the juveniles can enter and leave at will.

4. Forest birds.

There are several years of avian point count data from the south side of Bybee Lake. Those data document the birds that were using the areas at the beginning of habitat restoration work, especially for south Bybee's ash forest. It may be worth repeating the sampling on south Bybee, bearing in mind that many years of data collection will be needed to meaningfully detect and describe differences and trends, and that the breeding birds in that forest include many neotropical migrants whose populations may be trending independent of the habitat work. Now that we have canopy closure in the area that divided the ash forest patches, we may revisit avian monitoring.

5. Prairie/grassland birds.

We have 15 years of avian point counts during nesting season on the prairie now, and they show use by some species we had not documented previously such as Lazuli bunting and Black-headed grosbeak that appreciate the mosaic of trees/shrubs adjacent to prairie. The increased variety of herbaceous vegetation seems to be supporting more and more diverse birds as well. In the last two years, we have begun documenting Western meadowlarks, including juveniles during nesting season. In 2020 we recorded large numbers of Lesser goldfinches on the NW corner of the prairie, with fledged young by the end of the count season.

6. Pollinator monitoring on the prairie.

Surveys of bees using restored areas are in early stages, as are the restoration projects. A collaborator from Washington collected pollinators at St Johns Prairie and we are looking forward to receiving a species list and comparing relative abundance and floral resource use results from our different survey methods.

7. Waterfowl for avian botulism.

Visual surveys are performed every August-September where stagnant water occurs to detect signs of avian botulism outbreaks. Monitoring during 2012 and subsequent years highlighted the need to improve water management capability and supported projects such as channel management and water control structure refinements. We continue visual surveys annually, watching for botulism outbreaks.

8. Nutria.

Ongoing checks to detect dramatic increases in population size, which triggers contact with USDA for control work. We do not aim to or expect to eradicate the animals and precision in monitoring is not required.

After the initial pulse of control work in 2015-2017, the population did not increase substantially again until 2020. Nutria have historically altered the channel profile and interfered with water level management. Periodic evaluation of the site for nutria population increase results in control efforts seasonally.

9. Other (informal) monitoring.

- a. Troy Clark's bird counts. They have documented the variety of birds and number of birds using the site.
- b. Great blue heron nest counts. Occasional counts of the number of nests visible in the heron colony that was once found at SW Smith Lake and is now at the North side of Bybee Lake and no longer tracked.
- c. Bald eagle nesting. A few years of observations of bald eagle nests and fledging, when Frank Isaacs was documenting the population in the Willamette Valley.
- d. Phil Gaddis mist netting. Phil's work demonstrated the importance of south Smith Lake for molting Yellow-rumped warblers during migration. He published a paper on it in Northwest Science.

Vegetation monitoring

1. Water management effectiveness.

- a. Three Masters students from PSU have conducted detailed vegetation monitoring and analyzed changes related to water level management. Metro uses these results to manage water levels in the system adaptively to balance reed canarygrass control against the desire to develop diverse native emergent plant communities.

2. Ludwigia control.

- a. We are two years into a partnership with USDA/UC Davis conducting trials to determine the most effective method for Ludwigia control and its effects on native plants.

3. Inventory and curation.

- a. We have a comprehensive plant inventory and herbarium specimens stored at PSU.

4. Transects on the prairie are used to monitor native plant establishment (and pollinator use).

- a. Although Metro's Key Ecological Attributes for Prairie are our main measures of success, we are also monitoring bees to document the benefit of improving floral resource composition.

Questions from Emily Roth (SBAC) about wildlife monitoring:

- How is this information being used to manage the wildlife area?
 - Detect and manage avian botulism outbreaks.
 - Detect and manage nutria outbreaks.
 - Document use of prairie habitat by grassland birds.
 - Determine use of horned lark plots – or lack of use.
- What question(s) are being answered by the monitoring?
 - Are Streaked horned larks relocating to St Johns from Rivergate for nesting.
 - Are grassland birds like western meadowlark using the improved habitats.
- What are the trends over time that have been shown by the monitoring?
 - We now have meadowlarks on the prairie.
 - Streaked horned larks have used the prairie for stopover habitat. One singing male was observed during a point count survey over the 2018 breeding bird season.
 - Songbird species detections increased at two point count stations located in the far western and central portions of the site as native vegetation established.
 - In 2014 Common nighthawks were observed for the first time in an evening survey since those surveys began in 2012.
- Are there habitat and wildlife improvements with the restoration work being completed?
 - Yes: Western meadowlarks have been detected on the prairie and turtles protected from nest damage and poaching. Grassland bird species have been consistently detected in recent years (2012-2020) on breeding/avian point count surveys such as Western meadowlarks, Common nighthawk, Northern harrier, and Savannah sparrows, as well as horned larks during migration using the site as stopover habitat.
- Or are human impacts offsetting the restoration work being done?
 - This is a big question and we don't know how we could answer it. Although we know recreational use can adversely affect wildlife, it is extremely difficult to determine the effect of human use on an individual site. We have not seen human use impacting restoration areas to any great extent. Though we could talk about canoe launch site use.

ATTACHMENT 2

WILDLIFE MONITORING AT SMITH AND BYBEE

JANUARY 2021

Status of wildlife monitoring Smith and Bybee Wetlands as of November 2020

DATA COLLECTED	PAST/PRESENT	MANAGEMENT USE	FINDINGS/RESULTS	DATA SHARING
Pollinators	Present	Use of forbs by bees	They are using prairie	
Fish monitoring	Past	Determine whether the wetlands provide habitat value	Important to juvenile salmonids	Yes, with NMFS and ODFW
Painted turtles	Past	Relocate visitor amenities including paddle launch	Sensitive habitat protected better, disturbance reduced	Yes, ODFW
Amphibian surveys	Past	Document native amphibians	Primarily chorus frogs and long-toed salamanders, also robust pop. of bullfrogs	Regional (ODFW and others)
Avian – forest	Past, planned future	Document habitat use and change through time	Use by many species of interest, including warblers and willow flycatchers	
Avian – prairie	Present	Document habitat establishment & use	Increased diversity and relative abundance of generalist and grassland species	Yes
Avian – waterfowl and wading birds	Present	Detect botulism outbreaks; monitor fall migration	Outbreaks are detected when they occur; Ludwigia effects on waterfowl discovered	
Avian – Troy counts	Past	General bird population information	Documented the site's importance to fish eating birds seasonally and migrating swallows	
Avian – bald eagles	Past	Nest monitoring for USFWS	Use of site by eagles documented	
Avian – herons	Past	Rookery presence and use	Documented large rookery and their departure due to neighboring eagles	
Avian – mist netting	Past	Banded birds to understand local and long movements	Discovered molt during migration for YR Warblers not seen before	Paper in Northwest Science; also banding data to USFWS

ATTACHMENT 2

WILDLIFE MONITORING AT SMITH AND BYBEE

JANUARY 2021

DATA COLLECTED	PAST/PRESENT	MANAGEMENT USE	FINDINGS/RESULTS	DATA SHARING
Nutria	Present	Track population increases that harm habitat	Evidence triggers population control as needed	
Avian – general	Intermittent	Document site importance as IBA	Site has value as IBA	

ATTACHMENT 3

Smith and Bybee Provisional* Habitat Management Budget FY22 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

**Budget not yet approved by Metro Council*

Project Name	Funded TOTAL	Funded Oper	Funded Smith and Bybee Fund	Funded Grants / Other Metro	Comments
Columbia Sedge meadow restoration Phase 1	3000	3000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Columbia Sedge meadow restoration Phase II	7500	7500	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Forested wetland Phase I	7500	7500	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Forested Wetland Phase II	15000	15000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Forested Wetland Phase III	145000	72500	72500		
Ludwigia treatment trials	7000	7000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Water and Channel management	18000	18000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
St Johns Prairie Phase 1	2500	2500	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
St Johns Prairie Phase 2	20000	20000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
St Johns Prairie Phase 3	30000	15000	15000		
St Johns Prairie routine veg management	15000	0		15000	Covered by Landfill Operations
Streaked Horned Lark Habitat Plots	3000	3000	0		We can cover all of this via Levy/Operating.
Invasive Species Management General	90000	45000	45000		Primarily Ludwigia control
TOTAL: Natural Resources Management Percent	363500	216000	132500	15000	
		59	36	4	

ATTACHMENT 4

January 29, 2021

Northwest Region AQ Permit Coordinator
700 NE Multnomah # 600
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: NW Metals air quality permit

DEQ Permit Coordinator,

The Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Advisory Committee (SBAC) strongly urges DEQ to condition any emissions permit for NW Metals to address the unabated air quality, noise and light impacts from their operations. The detrimental impacts to sensitive species and the natural area visitors will only be heightened when the soon to be completed 40 Mile Loop trail adjacent to this property opens. The committee believes operations must be contained indoors to responsibly manage the site's emissions.

The SBAC is comprised of stakeholders from local government, NGOs, businesses and neighborhoods. Our task is to advise Metro on the management of the Smith and Bybee Natural Area, which is one of the largest protected wetlands in the country and provides essential habitat for rare plants and sensitive wildlife species. One aspect of our mission is to defend Smith and Bybee from further environmental impacts from the surrounding industrial area.

The 40 Mile Loop trail section that is planned to open 2022-23 is an important piece of the regional trail system connecting the St John's neighborhood to Kelley Point Park. It is anticipated that this very expensive and highly desirable trail will be heavily used. The NW Metals scraping operation is next door to this public amenity. We urge that the NW Metals operation be enclosed similar to Metro Metals at 5611 NE Columbia. Metro Metals is a close neighbor to Whitaker Elementary School and their operations are enclosed to limit air quality and noise impacts. The Smith and Bybee area and 40 Mile Loop recreational trail need similar protection from air quality emissions, noise impacts and light pollution (which disrupts circadian rhythms and predator-prey relationships) from the proposed NW Metals operation.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We are certain that appropriate mitigation techniques can be used to allow NW Metals to operate as a good neighbor to the Smith and Bybee area.

Sincerely,



Carrie Butler
Vice Chair, SBAC